GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2733
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2008
OPERATION OF COAL MINES LYING CLOSED
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal mines in the country alongwith the number of mines which are being operated and the number of mines lying closed, company-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to restart the operation of coal mines lying closed;and

(c) if so. the details thereof, company-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR.DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) The number of working coal mines in different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL)as on 01.10.2007 is 472. After nationalization many units/mines were regrouped/ amalgamated.Some of the nationalized units/mines have since been closed on account of exhaustion of reserve in the working seams, on safety and techno-economic ground etc. Thus it is now difficult to exactly specify the number of mines closed. However, as per available records. 191 mines/units are closed in CIL since nationalization.

Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC) is operating four lignite mines and no mine has been closed so far.

The number of mines in operation in Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) is 55 and number of mines closed is 41. However, some of the closed mines of SCCL have been converted into open cast mines.

(b) & (c) The opening and closure of the mines is an activity which is done in a careful and systematic manner.In other words, planning is a continuous process in a coal mining company.

Coal mining is site specific and passes through different phases of project life cycle as initial, peak and final. The mines get closed due to

1. Exhaustion of reserves 2. Adverse geo-mining conditions 3. Un-economical operation.

It is possible sometimes, to reopen closed underground mines

where reasonable amounts of coal are available in the form of barriers, partition thin seams,etc.,and work with opencast methods.